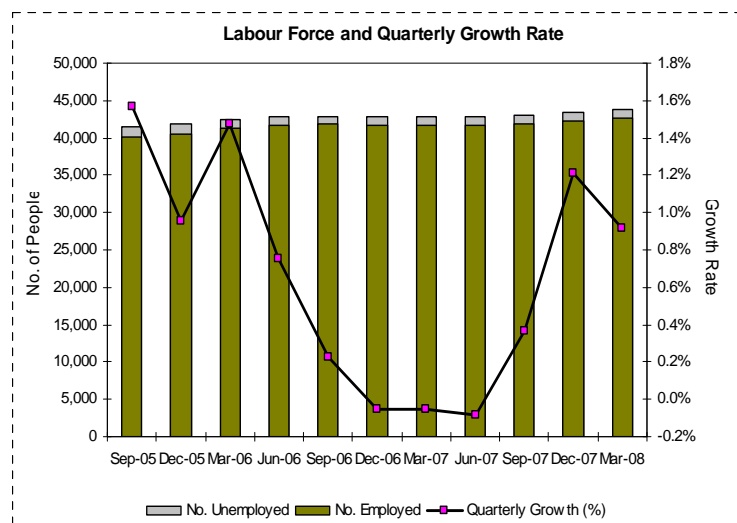




Regional Statistical Summary

# Wheatbelt Labour Force – March Quarter 2008



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

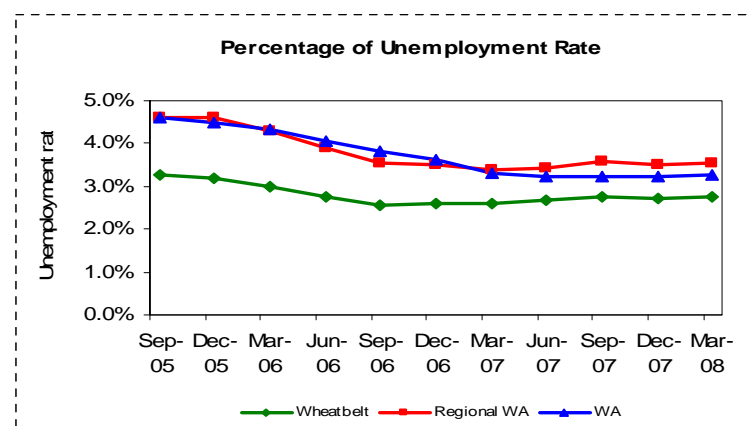
The Labour force (total persons employed and unemployed aged 15 and over) in the Wheatbelt Region in the March quarter 2008 totalled 43,877 people. When compared to the previous quarter, the Region's labour force has increased by 0.9 per cent.

Out of the total labour force, there were 42,672 persons employed and 1,205 persons looking for work. Since the September quarter 2005, the Wheatbelt's labour force has increased by 2,425 persons.

Quarter	Sep-05	Dec-05	Mar-06	Jun-06	Sep-06	Dec-06	Mar-07	Jun-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Mar-08
<b>No. Employed (#)</b>	40,092	40,508	41,200	41,609	41,790	41,741	41,719	41,652	41,773	42,297	42,672
<b>No. Unemployed (#)</b>	1,360	1,339	1,265	1,176	1,093	1,119	1,117	1,148	1,185	1,181	1,205
<b>Labour Force (#)</b>	<b>41,452</b>	<b>41,847</b>	<b>42,465</b>	<b>42,785</b>	<b>42,883</b>	<b>42,860</b>	<b>42,836</b>	<b>42,800</b>	<b>42,958</b>	<b>43,478</b>	<b>43,877</b>
<b>Quarterly Growth (%)</b>	1.6%	1.0%	1.5%	0.8%	0.2%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	0.4%	1.2%	0.9%

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and DLGRD.

Growth in the labour force has been influenced by robust economic growth in the Region. Compared to the same quarter of the previous year, employment increased from 41,719 to 42,672 and unemployment grew from 1,117 to 1,205 persons. This resulted in the slight increase of the unemployment rate.



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The unemployment rate in the Wheatbelt region has dropped from 3.3 per cent in September quarter 2005, to 2.7 per cent in March quarter 2008 after fluctuating across 2006 and 2007.

Despite the fluctuations, the unemployment rate for the Wheatbelt is consistently lower than that of the State and regional averages. In the March quarter 2007, the Wheatbelt recorded an unemployment rate of 2.7 per cent compared to 3.3 per cent for the State and 3.5 per cent for regional averages.

## Unemployment Rate (%)

Quarter	Sep-05	Dec-05	Mar-06	Jun-06	Sep-06	Dec-06	Mar-07	Jun-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Mar-08
<b>Wheatbelt</b>	3.3%	3.2%	3.0%	2.7%	2.5%	2.6%	2.6%	2.7%	2.8%	2.7%	2.7%
<b>Regional WA</b>	4.6%	4.6%	4.3%	3.9%	3.6%	3.5%	3.4%	3.4%	3.6%	3.5%	3.5%
<b>Western Australia</b>	4.6%	4.5%	4.3%	4.1%	3.8%	3.6%	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%	3.3%

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.